

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see the remarks, filed 04/10/2008, with respect to claims 1-6 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 103(a) rejection of JP '790 A (Umeki) has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gerald T. Shekleton on July 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claim 1 in its entirety. The new claim will read as follows:

--1. A semiconductor single crystal manufacturing apparatus, comprising a chamber disposed in a furnace and having a crucible in which a melt is charged, a heater for heating the crucible, and a wire within the chamber, wherein: at least a region of the wire, which is exposed to a high temperature by radiant heat from a heater that heats the crucible, is covered with a collar.—

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

In the drawing: Please label --Fig. 6(A) Prior Art-- and --Fig. 6(B) Prior Art--.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the instantly claimed invention. There is no teaching in the art to perform the apparatus that is now claimed. However, the prior art of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,614 does not teach a wire within the chamber, which is exposed to a high temperature by radiant heat from a heater that heats up the crucible, is covered with as stated in the instant invention. There is no motivation in the art to change the prior art's teaching of to arrive at the instantly claimed process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felisa Hiteshew whose telephone number is (571) 272-1463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM with Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

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examiner's supervisor, Mikhail Kornakov, can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-1463.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866- 217-9197 (toll-free).

/Felisa C. Hiteshew/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792